

Barb Van Hoy

From: Barb Van Hoy
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 3:47 PM
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Subject: Plus One city employee benefits proposal

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

We know this is a difficult time to lead our city, and we truly thank you for taking on the challenges that inevitably come as a community continues to outgrow its current revenue base. These times require bold leadership and a strong vision for what we want our community to look like in the future so we can plan for it now.

That is why Citizens Project continues to pursue Plus One health benefits for city employees. Not because it is the ideal time (which one could argue may never come), but because it is the right thing to do right now.

In fact, in a recent poll on Gazette.com, a majority of the 1,210 voters said that "yes, council should vote to make this change now."

After feedback from some of our key supporters on council, we agreed to table the discussions until after the election. Then, of course, 2010 budgeting was upon us and it seemed like the most inopportune time to revisit the issue given the pressures to preserve existing quality of life programs and jobs.

At the same time, we feel strongly that challenges will always exist that could be a roadblock to progress. That is why we strongly encourage council to take this up as an agenda item in January 2010.

Citizens Project has been working diligently to build coalitions of support while working to maintain a civil dialogue around the issue at hand - extending health care benefits to family members of city employees regardless of marital status.

Recent (unsolicited) coverage of the issue in The Gazette has put us in a position to bring the issue up again now, and we are working to connect with key supporters on council to develop a plan to bring this forward to the full council as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we plan to reach out to you individually to answer your questions or concerns after the holiday. Please don't hesitate to contact us anytime and we can address your issues immediately.

Thank you for all you do to make a community a better place. Happy New Year to you and yours!

Sincerely,

Barb Ferrill Van Hoy

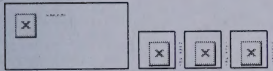
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Creating a community valuing diversity, equality, and religious freedom.

